

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 SSM-03 /074 W
-----042125 301806Z /43

O R 301640Z DEC 77

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 274

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN NY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: IS, EG, XF, US

SUBJECT: FURTHER PRESS REACTION TO PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON MIDDLE EAST

REF: TEL AVIV 11247

1. THE EDITORIALS IN TODAY'S MORNING PRESS GENERALLY REFLECTED THE SAME SATISFACTION FOUND IN YESTERDAY'S AFTERNOON PAPERS WITH THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS ON THE MIDDLE EAST, ALTHOUGH WITH SOME ADDED NUANCES. THE EXPRESSIONS OF SATISFACTION WERE MORE CAREFULLY PHRASED AND SOME ASPECTS OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS WERE SEEN TO INDICATE LESS THAN TOTAL APPROVAL OF ISRAEL'S POSITION.

2. DAVAR EDITORIALIZED THAT THE STATEMENTS ARE "NOT AN AMERICAN IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAEL'S POSITION OR THE PRIME MINISTER'S PLAN FOR SELF-RULE IN THE TERRITORIES.

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STILL, THE FACT THAT THE U.S. PRESIDENT HAS CHOSEN TO STRESS HIS OPPOSITION TO AN INDEPENDENT PALESTINIAN STATE AT THIS POINT MUST ON NO ACCOUNT BE UNDER-ESTIMATED." AL HAMISHMAR SAID THAT THE SIGNIFICANCE "LIES IN THE FACT THAT ON THIS IMPORTANT ISSUE THE U.S. PRESIDENT IS TAKING A POSITION THAT IS CLOSER TO THAT OF ISRAEL THAN THAT OF EGYPT, AND BY THE

FACT OF MAKING HIS POLITICAL STATEMENT HE HAS MADE
AN INVALUABLE CONTRIBUTION TO THE CONDUCTING OF THE
DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS."

3. HOWEVER, AARETZ SHOWED A MORE CAUTIOUS APPROACH
WHEN IT NOTED THAT THE PRESIDENT "CALLED BEGIN'S PLAN
'A BIG STEP FORWARD', BUT BY SAYING THIS HE HAS
IMPLIED THAT ISRAEL HAS NOT GONE ALL THE WAY," DAVARAS

SHOWED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CAUTION: "LOOKING
AT THE FREQUENT CHANGES IN THE U.S. STAND ON THE
PALESTINIAN ISSUE THAT HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST
YEAR, WE SHOULD NOT READ TOO MUCH INTO PRESIDENT
CARTER'S LATEST REMARKS ON THIS SUBJECT."

4. COMMENT: IT APPEARS THAT A CLOSER READING OF
THE PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT MAY HAVE PROMPTED A LESSER
DEGREE OF

ENTHUSIASM THAN THAT DISPLAYED IN YESTER-
DAY'S

INITIAL

REACTION. WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE
IT MAY ALSO REFLECT A GREATER APPRECIATION FOR THE
DELICATE U.S. ROLE IN TREADING THE NARROW PATH OF
EVENHANDEDNESS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL.
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Message Attributes

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